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23 February 1959

CONTINUED CONTROL

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

23 February 1959

DAILY BRIEF

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

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II. ASIA-AFRICA

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Iran-USSR: {The Shah is enraged by the strong public attack made on him by Khrushchev on 17 February. Iranian Prime Minister Eqbal believes that the Soviet Union's tough propaganda campaign against the Shah may have considerable internal repercussions and has again asked for American support and guarantees.} (SECRET NO FURTHER DISSEMINATION)

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UAR-USSR: Nasir's 21 February speech in Cairo concerned largely domestic and Arab affairs, but it also reflected his preoccupation with Soviet relations. The recent letters exchanged between Nasir and Khrushchev show that both are directly interested in containing their differences and consequently are likely to make further appropriate gestures in that direction. However, their divergent policies, including those toward Iraq, are likely to continue creating problems in their relationship. (CONFIDENTIAL)

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Cambodia: General Dap Chhuon has formally declared his "dissidence" against the Sihanouk regime in a letter to the King. The contents of the letter, while unknown, are probably concerned with Chhuon's terms for calling off a planned general uprising, which include Sihanouk's withdrawal from politics and the reorientation of Cambodia's policies toward a firmly anti-Communist position. While Chhuon apparently hopes for a negotiated political solution, his action may bring a military showdown nearer. A government military convoy of about 70 armored cars and trucks was observed moving from Phnom Penh toward Siem Reap, site of Chhuon's headquarters, on the night of 21 February. (SECRET NO FURTHER DISSEMINATION)

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Ceylon: The one-day general strike planned for 23 February has been postponed, possibly until 3 March. Tension remains high, however, and powerful plantation labor unions are reported willing to join Colombo's urban workers when they strike. (SECRET NOFORN)

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Somalia: Violence is anticipated during elections for a legislative assembly in the Italian trust territory of Somalia from 4 through 8 March. The 90-member assembly selected will draft the constitution and make other preparations for independence in 1960. The opposition party, boycotting the election in protest against questionable electoral methods employed by the Somali Youth League--the ruling party--may engage in violence, including attacks on foreigners and destruction of foreign installations. Police are aware of the threat and are taking emergency measures. (SECRET)

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DAILY BRIEF

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Morocco: [Abdelkhalik Torres, an important nationalist leader and Moroccan ambassador to Cairo, intends to resign and return to active politics. Torres' decision probably has the approval of the King, who may look on Torres as a conservative and as an acceptable future premier. Premier Ibrahim had wanted Torres to remain in Cairo, but was presumably overruled by the King. An adherent of the Istiqlal party's right wing, which is still struggling with the left wing for party control, Torres will try to strengthen the right wing's following in northern Morocco. If he fails, he may try to reconstitute the Islah, his former party, which had a wide following in the North.]

(SECRET NO FURTHER DISSEMINATION)

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